

6

Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 8:35 AM
To: Masser, Michelle; Canning, Sean
Subject: FW: NJLM February 2013 Mayors' Newsline

Last correspondence for this Agenda.

Lisa Lashway
Mt. Olive Twp. Clerk
973-691-0900 Ext. 7291
FAX 973-691-2080
PO Box 450
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

From: NJLM to Municipal Officials [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 8:29 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: NJLM February 2013 Mayors' Newsline

To view an online version of this email, click here.

[Read the Newsletter Online](#)

[Mayors Corner](#)

[Register for Seminars](#)

[Important Issues](#)

<i>Mayor's Newsline</i>	 NJLM New Jersey State League of Municipalities	<i>February 2013</i>
222 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608 PHONE (609) 695-3481 • FAX (609) 695-0151 EMAIL: league@njslom.com www.njslom.org		

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS	FROM THE PRESIDENT By Janice S. Mironov, Mayor, East Windsor
<i>Please consult the</i>	

League Web Calendar

Feb 6- 21st Annual Mayors
Legislative Day Statehouse,
Trenton

Feb 12 - Ethics and Sexual
Harassment-PNC, Holmdel

Feb 23- Executive
Leadership Training for
Mayors and Council
Presidents-Conference Center
at Mercer

Mar 6- Budget and Audit
Updates- Conference Center
at Mercer

Mar 13- Pensions and
Benefits Update-
PNC, Holmdel

Mar 15- Women in
Government-Princeton
Marriott, Plainsboro

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE**

Mayors and Council
Presidents Training

2013 Municipal
Directory

Women In
Government Day

Preserve Our Open Space and Farmland



A major 2013 priority and legislative goal this year for the League, for all of our mayors and municipalities, is incorporated in League Resolution No. 2012-04, "Supporting Sustainable State Funding for Preservation and Stewardship of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historic Sites in New Jersey." The Resolution seeks support for the establishment of a long-term dedicated source of state funding beyond the 2009 Bond issue to preserve open space and farmland in our State.

New Jersey has a long, successful and laudable history of preserving open space, parks and farmland. The New Jersey Green Acres program has helped to preserve over 650,000 acres of land and supported more than 1,100 park development projects over the past 50 years, and the State Agricultural Development Committee has preserved 200,000 acres of farmland over the past 30 years. Municipalities have been key partners and direct beneficiaries of these valuable state preservation programs.

Substantial unmet needs and significant worthwhile projects remain for land and water protection, farmland preservation and park development for the health and welfare of our communities and residents. Good land and environmental policy have long term beneficial results.

There are more than 175 organizations around the state in the New Jersey *Keep It Green Campaign* to advocate for the renewal of state funding for the preservation and stewardship of New Jersey's natural recreational and historic treasures for generations to come. Underscoring the broad citizen support for this goal, it is noted that in the past 30 years no state ballot measure to fund open space preservation has been defeated. The NJ Senate Environmental Committee is beginning hearings this month on proposals to achieve this goal.

I will be sending out a Letter and Resolution shortly for your consideration and hopeful adoption by your municipal governing body

Weather Hotline

Elected Officials
Hall of Fame

2013 Scholarship
Competition

Energy Receipts
Bills

User Friendly
Budget

Officers:

JANICE S. MIRONOV

President
Mayor, East Windsor Twp.

SUZANNE M. WALTERS

1st Vice President
Mayor, Stone Harbor Borough

GERALD TARANTOLO

2nd Vice President
Mayor, Eatontown Borough

JOSEPH TEMPESTA, JR

3rd Vice President
Mayor, West Caldwell Twp.

Members of the Board

CORY BOOKER (Ex-Officio)

Mayor, Newark City

RANDY BROWN

Mayor, Evesham Township

JAMES CASSELLA

Mayor, East Rutherford

DAN CORANOTO

Deputy Mayor, Hampton Township

JOHN DEAN DeRIENZO

Mayor, Haworth Borough

FRANK J. DRUETZLER

Mayor, Morris Plains Borough

JONATHAN DUNLEAVY

urging our state officials to ensure action this year to put in place a sustainable state source of funding to build on and expand our critical Garden State preservation efforts.

Mayors' and Council Presidents' Training Offered once again!

-Contact Danielle Holland- Htut ext.118 or dholland@njslom.com

Due to overwhelming demand, the League will once again hold its special training program especially for Mayors and Council Presidents on February 23, 2013 at the Conference Center at Mercer! The Seminar features presentations from the Department of Community Affairs, a panel discussion with MCANJ and NJMMA, an Ethics presentation, and a panel discussion featuring five Mayors with varying levels of experience. For more information on this program visit the program link: <http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/2013-Feb-23-Leadership-Training.html>

2013 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

-Contact Dee Kotch ext.115or dkotch@njslom.com

The annual Municipal Directory will be mailed to all mayors the first week of March. There is no cost for this first copy. Additional print copies are \$25 each and PDF copies are \$49. Use it to keep in touch with your colleagues around the state.

Save the Date!!-

Women In MUNICIPAL Government

"Women in GOVERNMENT Day"

- March 15, 2013

-Contact Lori Buckelew ext 112 or lbuckelew@njslom.com

The Women in Municipal Government Committee will be holding their 5th annual "Women in Government Day" on Friday, March 15, 2013 at

Mayor, Bloomingdale Borough
ERICA EDWARDS
Mayor, Flemington Borough
MICHAEL FRESSOLA
Mayor, Manchester Township
JERRAMIAH HEALY
Mayor, Jersey City
ALBERT B. KELLY
Mayor, Bridgeton City
JO-ANN LIPTAK
Mayor, Raritan Borough
RICHARD A. MACH
Mayor, Blairstown
LEO MCCABE
Mayor, Glassboro
ARTHUR R. ONDISH
Mayor, Mount Arlington
GARY PASSANANTE
Mayor, Somerdale Borough
ELLEN POMPPER
Mayor, Lower Alloways Creek
SHARON ROBINSON-BRIGGS
Mayor, Plainfield
WAYNE SMITH
Mayor, Irvington
JANET W. TUCCI
Mayor,
West Long Branch Borough
JESSE TWEEDLE
Mayor, Pleasantville City
BRIAN C. WAHLER
Mayor, Piscataway Township

Executive Staff

William G. Dressel Jr.
Executive Director
Michael J. Darcy, CAE,
Asst. Executive Director

NJ Employment Listings & Classified Ads

The NJLM Listing is
constantly being
updated and is the
most up to date

the Princeton Marriott. For more Information on this program please
click the following link <http://www.njslom.org/WIMG-Day-031513.html>

Weather Hotline for Seminar Cancellations

The League will announce emergency seminar cancellations via
recorded announcement on our Weather Hotline: **609-695-3481 ext.
200** and post announcements on our website www.njslom.org after
6:00am on the morning of the meeting.

2013 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

-Contact Michael Darcy ext.116 or mdarcy@njslom.com

In January, the League mailed information to all mayors concerning the
Annual Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition.
League Past President Chuck Chiarello of Buena Vista Township chairs
the Scholarship Competition and Deputy Mayor Dan Coranoto of
Hampton Township also serves as a judge. This popular competition is
open to all high school juniors and seniors throughout the state. The top
three winners each receive \$1,000 scholarships from the League.

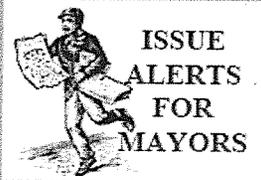
Mayors play an integral role in the success of this program because
your office publicizes its availability, judges the local entries, and
distributes the checks and certificates supplied by the League. You
should publicize the scholarship to your local schools and establish your
judging committee. Your local winning entry must be submitted to the
League office by April 2, so we can announce the three statewide
winners by May 3.

ELECTED OFFICIALS INDUCTED IN LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

-Contact Michael Darcy ext 116 or mdarcy@njslom.com

listing of NJ
municipal jobs on
the Internet.

View jobs and place
your ad.



Click here to
Subscribe to NJLM's
Award Winning
Magazine

The League will induct new members into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame during the 21st Annual Mayors Legislative Day February 6, 2013 at the State House Annex in Trenton. This honor is reserved for those governing body members, active and retired, who have served 20 years in elected municipal office. There are currently 429 inductees in the Elected Officials Hall of Fame. Congratulations to our most recent members! See the list below and the 2013 Hall of Fame page for more information at www.njslom.org.

This year's inductees are as follows:

Mayor Peter C. Elco, Absecon City
Mayor Paul H. Tomasko, Alpine Borough
Councilman George M. Warr, Barnegat Light Borough
Alderman Paul Nevadomski, Boonton Town
Mayor John Sanford, Branchburg Township
Committeeman Cosmo Laurella, Deerfield Township
Alderman James A. Visioli, Dover Town
Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth City
Councilperson Sharon Shutzer, Freehold Borough
Councilwoman Leslie G. Hamilton, Hardyston Township
Deputy Mayor George H. Beatty, Hope Township
Councilman Douglas E. Witte, Sr., Lake Como Borough
Councilman Emeritus Elmo Mengucci, Lopatcong Township
Mayor Michael Fressola, Manchester Township
Mayor Joseph E. Wolk, Mount Ephraim Borough
Councilwoman Barbara Shafer, Neptune City
Mayor Harry L. Wynat, Jr., Phillipsburg Town
Councilman at Large Salvatore Mione, Rahway City
Councilwoman at Large Nancy Saliga, Rahway City
Mayor Fred A. Henry, South Amboy City
Committeeman C. Edman Budd, Southampton Township
Committeeman Charles M. Gross, Stillwater Township
Mayor Michael A. Kovacs, Washington Township (Warren)
Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, West Windsor Township

Action Needed to Advance Restoration of Energy Receipts Bills
--League President, Mayor Janice S. Mironov of East Windsor Township

If you have not yet done so, please contact your State legislators and urge them to support Assembly Bill A-2753/Senate Bill S-1923. These are the bills that would require certain energy tax receipts to be paid directly to municipalities. This bill would assure local property taxpayers compensation for hosting transmission facilities and lines that allow gas and electric energy corporations to serve customers and conduct business in our Garden State. The State has not yet restored the \$331 million in municipal property tax relief funding, which was diverted between 2008 and 2010. Passage of this initiative would do so, bringing each municipality back to the 2007 Energy Tax Receipts/CMPTRA funding level and adjusting that amount to account for inflation.

In our December 18 letter (<http://www.njslom.org/letters/2012-1218-energy-taxes.html>), we included a link to a Sample Resolution supporting these bills. We urge you to ask your governing body to enact the resolution and go on record in support of A-2753/S-1921. The Legislature and the Administration will have to focus on this issue, if we demonstrate widespread support for these bills.

Please act now. Please urge your State Senator and your two Assembly Members to co-sponsor A-2752/S-1921.

On January 14, the Times of Trenton published my guest opinion column on this legislation. You can access that on the internet at

http://www.nj.com/times-opinion/index.ssf/2013/01/opinion_energy_taxes_belong_to.html

Please feel free to share this op-ed with your taxpayers to better explain what is at stake in pushing for the restoration of our municipal energy tax receipts.

Creating a Meaningful Budget for Elected Officials and the Public

*-Contact Jason R. Martucci, Division of Local Government Services,
Jason.Martucci@dca.state.nj.us*

Mayors throughout New Jersey face the challenge of helping constituents understand their efforts to contain costs and control property taxes. The Division of Local Government Services recognizes that the current municipal budget format is not readily understandable for the average citizen, nor does it serve as an effective strategic planning document for elected officials.

As part of a larger transition to electronic budget reporting, the Division is committed to the 2013 implementation of N.J.S.A. 40A:5:48, the “user-friendly budget” law. This statute requires the promulgation of a user-friendly budget form for municipalities that serves as a plain language summary of the adopted budget, yet also provides more detailed statistical information “for the public’s understanding of the local unit’s fiscal matters and condition”. The Local Finance Board is proposing rules to implement the user-friendly budget for municipalities, rules incorporating pre-proposal input from local government stakeholders.

The municipality will electronically submit required data from the current and prior budget years to the Division on an Excel spreadsheet platform. User-friendly budget information will be grouped into categories such as fiscal health indicators, property tax data, collective bargaining agreements, health benefits, revenue, appropriations and staffing. Much of the information will be similar to that included in the standard municipal budget but in a different format. Certain areas, for example debt, property taxes, personnel and health benefits, will require more detailed disclosure. In turn, the Division will convert the submitted data into a concise visual format through means such as charts and graphs. The user-friendly budget itself will be data formatted and displayed by the Division on its website.

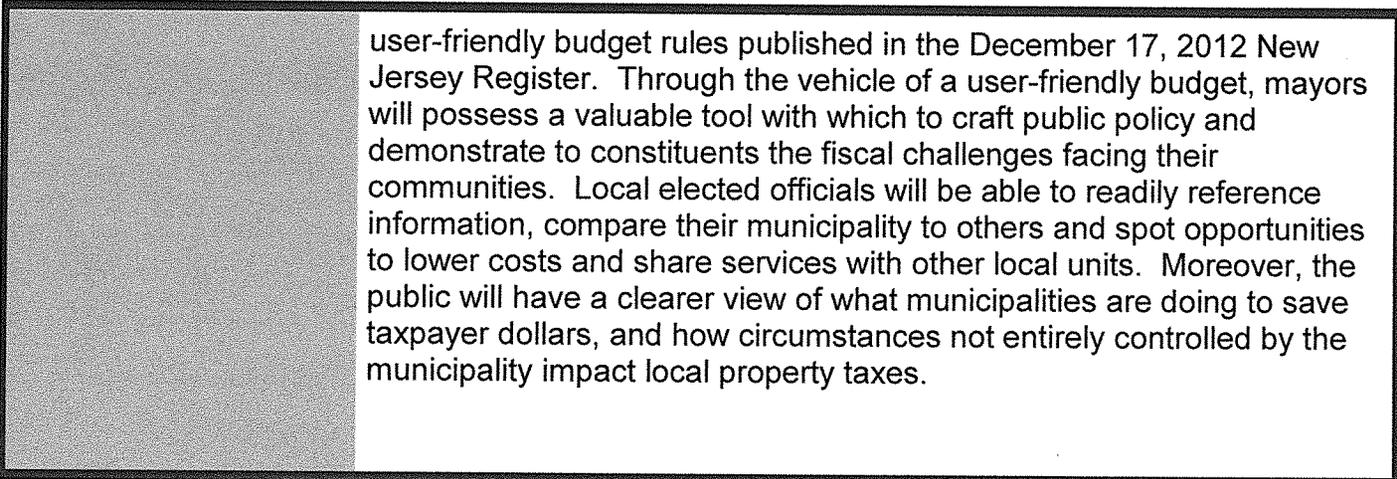
We offer below select examples of how the user-friendly budget offers elected officials and the general public a more vivid fiscal picture.

Debt, surplus and property tax assessments/collections are grouped together as “fiscal health indicators”, providing a snapshot of a municipality’s fiscal health and overall financial sustainability. The amount of debt that a municipality guarantees on behalf of other entities various projects is often overlooked but critical to understanding a municipality’s total debt picture; a factor rating agencies increasingly emphasize when formulating municipal bond ratings. For those municipalities with a bond rating, they offer taxpayers a readily apparent indicator of their municipality’s creditworthiness.

Residential taxpayers are often unclear about the impact each type of tax levy has on their pocketbook. The user-friendly budget breaks down property taxes on the municipal, county, school and fire district levels by tax rate, tax levy and what the average residential taxpayer pays toward each. The public can view what portion if a local purposes tax levy increase is due to exceptions to the two percent levy cap. With a greater number of taxpayers wanting to know more about tax abatements or exemptions awarded by their municipality for redevelopment, the user-friendly budget provides the number of projects receiving abatements or exemptions; the revenue earned from PILOT agreements the otherwise taxable value of those projects.

The user-friendly budget will demonstrate with greater detail and clarity the impact of employee health benefits. A substantial component of most municipal budgets, current and prior year medical and prescription drug coverage costs are given a dedicated input sheet. Annual health benefit costs for employees, elected officials and retirees are broken down by coverage tier (single, parent & child, employee & spouse/partner and family). To show how the recent public employee health benefit reforms have decreased the cost of municipal employee benefits, the recipients’ premium contribution is deducted from the employer healthcare cost.

The Division invites mayors to review and comment on the proposed



user-friendly budget rules published in the December 17, 2012 New Jersey Register. Through the vehicle of a user-friendly budget, mayors will possess a valuable tool with which to craft public policy and demonstrate to constituents the fiscal challenges facing their communities. Local elected officials will be able to readily reference information, compare their municipality to others and spot opportunities to lower costs and share services with other local units. Moreover, the public will have a clearer view of what municipalities are doing to save taxpayer dollars, and how circumstances not entirely controlled by the municipality impact local property taxes.

[Click here to forward this mailing with your personal message.](#)

This email was sent to: clerk@mtolivetwp.org
This email was sent by: **New Jersey League of Municipalities**
222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

[Click here to leave this mailing list.](#)